

VZCZCXRO5311  
RR RUEHAG RUEHDF RUEHIK RUEHLZ RUEHROV  
DE RUEHLO #4102 3051145  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 011145Z NOV 07  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6096  
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE  
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC

UNCLAS LONDON 004102

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS USTR

E.O. 12598: N/A  
TAGS: [ECPS](#) [ETRD](#) [ECON](#) [UK](#)

SUBJECT: UK AGREES WITH US APPROACH TO UPCOMING WHO  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON PUBLIC HEALTH, INNOVATION, AND  
IP

REF State 144926

11. (SBU) SUMMARY: UK delegates from HMG Department of Health (UK DH) and the UK Intellectual Property Office (UK IPO) agree broadly with the US on the upcoming World Health Organization (WHO) intergovernmental working group (IGWG) on public health, innovation, and intellectual property. Both UK DH and UK IPO state that the WHO should not assume any role in determining international agreements on intellectual property. In particular, the WHO should have no decision making role regarding patents on medicines. UK DH and UK IPO also agree that the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is the proper organization for IP related issues. UK DH wants the WHO's emphasis to remain on public health and not become involved with tangential issues. However, the third member of the UK's delegation, the Department for International Development, might have differing views. Both officials made clear that there may be limits in the degree to which the UK delegation to the IGWG will vocally defend U.S. positions on issues such as TRIPS-plus provisions in trade agreements. END SUMMARY

12. (U) USTR representative, Chris Wilson, met with Will Niblett of UK DH and Andrew Jenner of UK IPO during a trip to London on October 25 and 26, 2007. Niblett and Jenner comprise two-thirds of the UK's delegation to the November 5-10, 2007 IGWG. The third member of the UK delegation will be Charles Clift from the UK Department for International Development (DFID). Wilson briefed Niblett and Jenner on the US position on the upcoming IGWG.

13. (SBU) Niblett said that his delegation is "very keen" to work with the US and that the UK broadly agrees with the US position. UK DH is the lead UK agency at the conference. Niblett said that he hopes to steer the meetings always from patent issues, because the WHO's emphasis should be on public health and not intellectual property. His priority will be to keep the conference on track, because the agenda is too far-reaching and broad. Jenner's statements broadly matched those of Niblett. Jenner added that although public awareness of this issue is generally low, NGO's in the UK are very aware of the issue. Jenner says that NGO's generally side with the developing world on IP issues and believe patents hinder developing countries' access to medicines. Oxfam and Doctors without Borders are particularly following this issue. Jenner stated that DFID tends to be more supportive of the developing world at these conferences. Although DFID only comprises one-third of the UK delegation, Clift is well-known at the WHO and has much experience at IGWG's. It is unclear how much influence he will be able to exert over the two other members of his delegation.

LEBARON